II. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The below listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application:

1. (Currently Amended) A defoaming agent for cementitious compositions comprising a mixture of at least one polyethylene oxide derivative and at least one nonionic defoaming agent, wherein the polyethylene oxide derivative has at one end a hydrophobic group with at least one of a branched structure and an unsaturated bond, and at the other end an anionic group, wherein the ~~unsaturated bond is optionally a double bond~~ polyethylene oxide derivative is a compound expressed by formula I:

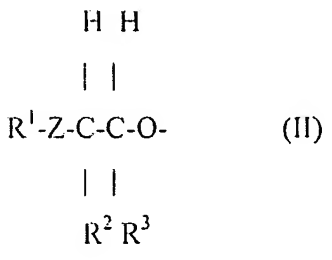
$X\text{-}(EO)_a\text{-}Y$ (I)

wherein X is a hydrophobic group comprising a branched structure and an unsaturated bond; wherein the unsaturated bond is a double bond; Y is an anionic group; EO is -CH_2CH_2O- and a is an integer from 6 to 100.

2-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) The defoaming agent according to claim [[3]] 1 wherein a is an integer from 15 to 60.

5. (Currently Amended) The defoaming agent according to claim 1, wherein the hydrophobic group ~~comprising at least one of a branched structure and an unsaturated bond~~ is expressed by formula II:



(II)

wherein Z is O or an amine; R^1, R^2 and R^3 are each independently alkyl or phenyl, naphthyl, alkenyl, alkylene oxide with 2 to 4 carbon atoms or any derivatives thereof, and R^2 and R^3 may also be each independently H, with the proviso that R^1 is not alkyl when R^2 and R^3 are both H.

6. (Previously Presented) The defoaming agent according to claim 1, wherein the anionic group is $-SO_3M$, $-(CH_2CH_2)OSO_3M$, $-R^4COOM$ (wherein R^4 is $-C_mH_{2m}-$ (in which m is an integer $10 > m > 0$) or a phenyl group), $-PO_3M$ or $-CO(CH_2)_nCOOM$ (wherein M is Na salt, K salt, Ca salt, Mg salt, NH_4 salt or H, n is 2 or 3).

7. (Previously Presented) The defoaming agent according to claim 1 wherein the nonionic defoaming agent is expressed by formula III:

$$R^5O\text{-}(AO)_b\text{-}R^6 \qquad \text{(III)}$$

wherein R^5 and R^6 are each independently an aliphatic hydrocarbon with 10 to 25 carbon atoms, an alkyl group with 1 to 5 carbon atoms or H; AO is a block polymer and/or a random polymer constituted of alkylene oxide with 2 to 3 carbon atoms and b is an integer from 5 to 500.

8. (Previously Presented) The defoaming agent according to claim 1 wherein the polyethylene oxide derivative and the nonionic defoaming agent are at a ratio in the range of 20:80 to 60:40 (wt%).

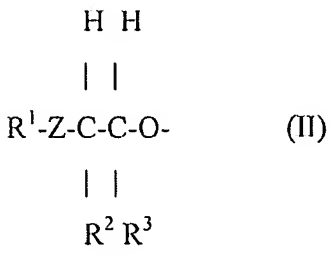
9. (Original) The defoaming agent according to claim 7, wherein the nonionic defoaming agent, when converted to polyethylene glycol, has a weight average molecular weight in the range from 300 to 30,000 and the weight ratio of the ethylene oxide in said molecular weight is in the range of 5 to 80%.

10. (Currently Amended) A water-reducing composition comprising a blend of a polycarboxylate-type high performance air-entraining (AE) water-reducing agent and a defoaming agent ~~according to claim 1~~ for cementitious compositions comprising a mixture of at least one polyethylene oxide derivative and at least one nonionic defoaming agent, wherein the polyethylene oxide derivative has at one end a hydrophobic group with at least one of a branched structure and an unsaturated bond, and at the other end an anionic group, wherein the unsaturated bond is optionally a double bond.

11. (Previously Presented) A method of defoaming a cementitious composition by the addition to the composition of a defoaming agent according to claim 1.

12. (Previously Presented) The defoaming agent of claim 6 wherein m is 1 or 2.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A defoaming agent ~~according to claim 3~~ for cementitious compositions comprising a mixture of at least one polyethylene oxide derivative and at least one nonionic defoaming agent, wherein the polyethylene oxide derivative has at one end a hydrophobic group with at least one of a branched structure and an unsaturated bond, and at the other end an anionic group, wherein the unsaturated bond is optionally a double bond, wherein the hydrophobic group comprising at least one of a branched structure and an unsaturated bond is expressed by formula II:



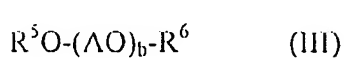
(II)

wherein Z is O or an amine; R^1, R^2 and R^3 are each independently alkyl or phenyl, naphthyl, alkenyl, alkylene oxide with 2 to 4 carbon atoms or any derivatives thereof, and R^2 and R^3 may also be each independently H, with the proviso that R^1 is not alkyl when R^2 and R^3 are both H.

14. (Currently Amended) The defoaming agent according to claim [[3]] 13, wherein the anionic group is $-SO_3M$, $-(CH_2CH_2)OSO_3M$, $-R^4COOM$ (wherein R^4 is $-C_mH_{2m}-$ (in which m is an integer $10 > m > 0$) or a phenyl group), $-PO_3M$ or $-CO(CH_2)_nCOOM$ (wherein M is Na salt, K salt, Ca salt, Mg salt, NH_4 salt or H, n is 2 or 3).

15. (Previously Presented) The defoaming agent of claim 14 wherein m is 1 or 2.

16. (Currently Amended) The defoaming agent according to claim [[3]] 13, wherein the nonionic defoaming agent is expressed by formula III:



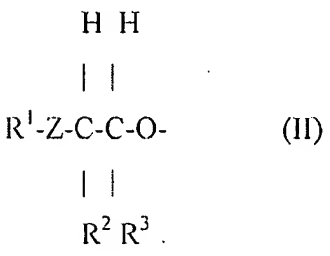
(III)

wherein R^5 and R^6 are each independently an aliphatic hydrocarbon with 10 to 25 carbon atoms, an alkyl group with 1 to 5 carbon atoms or H; AO is a block polymer and/or a random polymer constituted of alkylene oxide with 2 to 3 carbon atoms and b is an integer from 5 to 500.

17. (Currently Amended) A water-reducing composition comprising a blend of a polycarboxylate-type high performance air-entraining (AE) water-reducing agent and a defoaming agent according to claim [[3]] 13.

18. (Currently Amended) A method of defoaming a cementitious composition by the addition to the composition of a defoaming agent according to claim [[3]] 13.

19. (Currently Amended) The defoaming agent according to claim 4, wherein the hydrophobic group ~~comprising at least one of a branched structure and an unsaturated bond~~ is expressed by formula II:



(II)

wherein Z is O or an amine; R^1, R^2 and R^3 are each independently alkyl or phenyl, naphthyl, alkenyl, alkylene oxide with 2 to 4 carbon atoms or any derivatives thereof, and R^2 and R^3 may also be each independently H, with the proviso that R^1 is not alkyl when R^2 and R^3 are both H.

20. (Previously Presented) The defoaming agent according to claim 4, wherein the anionic group is -SO_3M, -$(CH_2CH_2)OSO_3M$, -R^4COOM (wherein R^4 is -C_mH_{2m}- (in which m is an integer $10 > m > 0$) or a phenyl group), -PO_3M or -$CO(CH_2)_nCOOM$ (wherein M is Na salt, K salt, Ca salt, Mg salt, NH_4 salt or H, n is 2 or 3).

21. (Previously Presented) The defoaming agent according to claim 4 wherein the nonionic defoaming agent is expressed by formula III:

$$R^5O\text{-}(AO)_b\text{-}R^6 \qquad (III)$$

wherein R^5 and R^6 are each independently an aliphatic hydrocarbon with 10 to 25 carbon atoms, an alkyl group with 1 to 5 carbon atoms or H; AO is a block polymer and/or a random polymer constituted of alkylene oxide with 2 to 3 carbon atoms and b is an integer from 5 to 500.

22. (New) A water-reducing composition comprising a blend of a polycarboxylate-type high performance air-entraining (AE) water-reducing agent and a defoaming agent according to claim 1.